

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### DX King October Update

by John Forbus, NV4A

There's only about a month and a half left to add to your DX King score, but the CQWW CW Contest the last weekend in November can be a good way to add to your score. The scores through October are shown below. Just as a final reminder, here are the simple rules for DX King, which, as always, follow the basic rules of the CQ DX Marathon:

Be sure to read the official DX Marathon rules first, but here is a capsule version. There are 3 entry classes:

Unlimited - according to your license

Limited - 100 watts, antennas may be directional

Formula – 5 watts or less or up to 100 watts, simple vertical or wire antennas only

QSL verification is not needed. You may use packet cluster or other forms of spotting assistance. *You must have your scores to CQ by **January 5, 2019**.*

Here are the specific rules for the 2018 CDXA DX King competition: Certificates will be awarded for the top five scores in each of the three classes. For

AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec./Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
NV4A	John Forbus	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	4th Call Area Bureau Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

those entrants who have scored 150 or more points, an Amazon \$100 gift card will be awarded by raffle. Final standings will be determined by the DX Marathon scores published in CQ (*which is why it's very important to get your scores into CQ by January 5, 2019.*)

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	267	40	307
AA4SC	Unlimited	232	40	272
VE3UTT	Unlimited	222	40	262
K8YC	Unlimited	193	33	226
W4HG	Unlimited	183	36	219
W1AJT	Unlimited	180	37	217
N4PQX	Unlimited	158	36	194
W3OA	Unlimited	152	35	187
NV4A	Unlimited	133	28	161
W3ZL	Formula	108	26	134

### CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

K4MD (AR V.4 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:23
K4MD (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:7373
W4DXA (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com:23
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

## CQWW CW Contest is coming soon

John Forbus, NV4A

The CQWW SSB Contest is in the bag. Our participation was down a bit this year, but a DXpedition to VP9-land by long-time member AA4V, and new members K4AJA, N4SF and W4GE helped with a Multi-2 operation that added over 2.8 million points to CDXA's score.

Don't forget that the CQWW CW contest begins at 0000Z November 24 (that's 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time on the 23rd.) Please participate for whatever time you have available. Not much of a CW operator? Don't worry. Stations won't generally be operating split, and many/most of the stations you'll hear will be easy to copy with CWGet or Skimmer. If you're using N1MM, (and probably other contest logging software) you can program your responses as a Function Key, and never have to touch a key or paddle. In the past, I've seen some non-CW ops do pretty well in the CW contests.

## Brrrrr, It's Cold Outside

If you've ever worked one of the scientific bases in Antarctica with your radio, have you ever wondered what the work-a-day life is like for the people stationed there? Well, wonder no more. In the past month, an article you might enjoy reading has been slipped into CDXA's webpage. It was written by a scientist, Robert Streeter, who lived and worked at the Amundsen-Scott station on the South Pole for a winter season. Follow Robert's path as he is selected for the venture, goes through training, and walks us through a typical day's work with his fellow scientists. Look for the article on the home page in the section entitled "Baby It's Cold".

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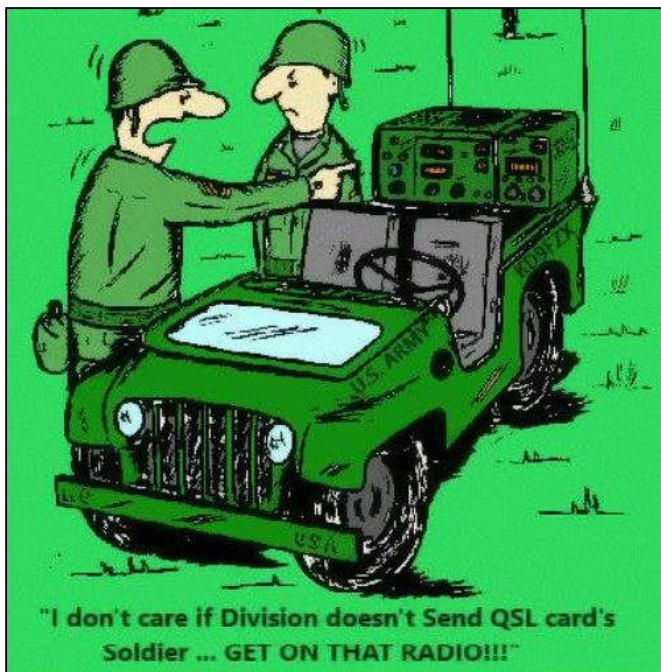
The purpose of the Association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of associating with persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the Association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
218 Ohenry Avenue  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [jew53@cornell.edu](mailto:jew53@cornell.edu).



(Thanks to Paul Ponak, AD4IE, for sending the cartoon on to the editor.)

## Welcome New Members

The month of October brought four new members to our organization. Three of our new members came to know us by way of Steve Reichlyn, AA4V, as they planned their contest participation in Bermuda for CQWW SSB. Those people are **Richard Schmiedt, W4GE** of Mt. Pleasant SC, **Gaylord Gasque, N4SF** of Brevard NC, and **David Needham, K4AJA** of Charleston SC. The four operators had a pretty good outing in Bermuda. Read about how their scores will help CDXA in the Club Competition in this month's report on CQWW SSB, elsewhere on this page.

Our fourth new member is **William Axelrod, K3WA** of Pittsboro, NC. Sooner or later we hope to have an "eyeball QSO" with each of these new members. Maybe it will be as early as the upcoming Christmas banquet????!!

Welcome to CDXA to all of you.

## FT8 Challenge through October Update

by John Forbus, NV4A

The 2018 FT8 Challenge is winding down. It's been fun, but it's hard to imagine that a new and rather obscure digital mode that we figured needed a bit of exposure through a CDXA yearlong event would, by some accounts, almost take over the HF bands! Whether you personally think that's a bad thing or a good thing, there's no doubt it's helped us add to our entity counts, through the occasional ATNO, new band and mode entities, and very possibly FT8 WAS. Especially if you hit the big extended 6 meter opening this spring, I imagine you added to your VUCC numbers as well. In any case, the FT8 Challenge is a one-year event. We're working to come up with something to replace it for next year. In the meantime, here are the scores through October. . . . and you probably know that I keep mentioning that it still isn't too late to jump in and add your FT8 contacts to the list. I guess K4MD was paying attention, because if you notice, his call just appeared near the top of the list.

Call	Home Grid	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	All Bands
K5EK	FM03	413	492	515	768	505	298	31	98	277	3397
N4GBK	FM16	305	540	441	670	477	295	218	236	157	3339
K4MD	EM95	342	686	370	735	624	461	19	18	0	3255
W3GQ	EM95	343	563	432	736	651	248	54	90	49	3166
W3OA	EM95	222	407	284	663	298	265	86	130	105	2460
AA4R	FM05	62	237	293	428	484	282	56	37	0	1879
K4GHS	EM96	135	196	387	283	379	220	21	5	0	1626
WA3DQS	EM95	195	130	175	73	123	96	26	62	21	901
AA4R	EN64	35	93	152	187	231	54	15	41	22	830
NV4A	EM95	106	92	150	97	91	2	8	2	95	643
W4LK	EM93	34	121	132	217	70	25	3	2	8	612
W4GEH	EM95	66	182	103	153	68	21	0	4	0	597
WW4DD	EM94	116	130	34	142	5	0	0	1	2	430
W3ZL	EM95	0	66	9	230	23	2	0	13	45	388
K8YC	EM95	31	62	67	51	43	14	12	8	11	299
N4APR	EM95	10	101	13	111	27	6	0	0	0	268
W4JHU	EM85	29	73	0	39	26	3	0	4	0	174
W4GHV	EM95	3	23	10	22	5	1	0	0	1	65
W4WSC	EM95	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

## CDXA Annual Holiday Dinner

Get an early jump on the holiday season spirit by meeting your ham friends at the Annual Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 1, 2018. The evening event begins at 6:30PM with a social hour, and with dinner service beginning at 7:15PM. We'll be at Big Daddy's of Lake Norman again.

Menu for the night, signup sheet, and directions to find Big Daddy's can all be found on the CDXA Home Page (<https://www.cdxa.org>). Deadline for signing up is Monday, November 26, so don't delay!



## The Back Page

**DX King** contest is still ongoing amongst the stalwarts, racing towards year end. Participants need to make note of the deadline for reporting in 2019—it has been shortened to January 5, 2019. The odds of winning the raffle prize have surely become good this year with a smaller pool of qualifiers. See Page 1.

The CW segment of the world's most anticipated contest—**CQ World Wide**—is on the horizon for the end of this month. Read John Forbus' commentary on how you can participate even if you aren't a "hotshot" CW operator. With all the tools we now have available—CWSkimmers, code readers, contesting software—you can still have fun, help your fellow testers by giving them your contact, and work a few "new ones" for yourself. And, remember, many testers use LoTW so your contact has a high probability of being confirmed within days (or even hours) of contest completion. See Page 2.

One thing for sure—many CDXA members know how to use the "hot" new mode of FT8 as shown in the results of the **FT8 Challenge**. Assuming about 4 minutes per contact, your editor figures our leaders have spent more than 200 hours of "BIC" (Butt in Chair) time this year. See Page 3.

Four **NEW MEMBERS** have joined us during October. Welcome. Find who they are on Page 2.

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### Editor's "Ramblings"—

A shortened issue this month. The well isn't totally dry, but a cataract surgery may make seeing my PC screen a little problematic for a few days, so now is the time to "wrap it up". As always, I rely on YOU to feed me some good material from time to time to keep things interesting. Bring it on! I've agreed to stay on as editor for 2019, unless someone wishes to oppose me in the upcoming elections. With 13 years of pushing out the Pileup behind me, the time to hang up my editor's shoes is approaching. So, if you've a burning desire to be an editor/publisher, your chance is right around the corner.

There will be no issue of the Pileup in December, since it is not published in June or December. So, there will be no reminder to get your CQ Marathon scores reported by January 5. Don't forget.

The FT8 mode has really taken off faster than anything I've seen in my nearly 40 years of being a ham. The waterfall display is filled with ongoing QSOs on any band that is open on any day. I surmise that many hams who've only dreamed of working DX or earning WAS will have earned those awards in the past year. I noticed the list of awardees for the DXCC has grown in the past year from about 60 pages to over 90 pages, and many pages are attributed to DXCC certificate holders with less than 120 entities. I'll bet that many of those have come in the past year by use of FT8. Once those people have "the bug", perhaps they'll have a yen for working all 340 DXCC entities. I sure hope so, and I'll bet many of those FT8 only operators will find out that CW is alive and well, and still an excellent way to contact the hard to get entities. (IMHO) All this is good for amateur radio.

See you in January.